

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON MOTION TO WAIVE THE BUDGET ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question occurs on agreeing to the motion to waive the Budget Act in relation to the Durbin amendment No. 519. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Kansas [Mr. ROBERTS] is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber who desire to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 41, nays 58, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 137 Leg.]

YEAS—41

Abraham	Glenn	Lugar
Biden	Gorton	McCain
Bingaman	Gregg	Mikulski
Bond	Harkin	Murray
Boxer	Hutchison	Reed
Bumpers	Johnson	Reid
Collins	Kennedy	Santorum
Daschle	Merry	Sarbanes
DeWine	Kohl	Shelby
Dodd	Landrieu	Specter
Dorgan	Lautenberg	Torricelli
Durbin	Leahy	Wellstone
Feingold	Levin	Wyden
Feinstein	Lieberman	

NAYS—58

Akaka	Enzi	Mack
Allard	Faircloth	McConnell
Ashcroft	Ford	Moseley-Braun
Baucus	Frist	Moynihan
Bennett	Graham	Murkowski
Breaux	Gramm	Nickles
Brownback	Grams	Robb
Bryan	Grassley	Rockefeller
Burns	Hagel	Roth
Byrd	Hatch	Sessions
Campbell	Helms	Smith (NH)
Chafee	Hollings	Smith (OR)
Cleland	Hutchinson	Snowe
Coats	Inhofe	Stevens
Cochran	Inouye	Thomas
Conrad	Jeffords	Thompson
Coverdell	Kempthorne	Thurmond
Craig	Kerrey	Warner
D'Amato	Kyl	
Domenici	Lott	

NOT VOTING—1

Roberts

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 41, the nays are 58. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The point of order is sustained and the amendment falls.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 518

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I opposed the Bumpers Amendment that would repeal percentage depletion for hardrock mining companies operating on public and formerly public lands. I believe this amendment is the wrong approach to bringing about mining law reform.

Hardrock mining provides many high-paying jobs and is essential to the economy of Montana. This amendment would raise taxes on the hardrock min-

ing industry which will negatively affect everyone that depends on mining for their economic livelihood.

The intent of this amendment is not about percentage depletion. This amendment is an overt attempt to punish the hardrock mining industry for the lack of success in reforming the 1872 Mining Law. Percentage depletion is being used as a surrogate to bring about reform. If there are problems with the 1872 Mining Law, we should approach those problems directly—not in the form of repealing percentage depletion. Let's not wage economic warfare against an entire industry.

The repeal of percentage depletion is the wrong tool for bringing about mining law reform. The Bumpers amendment could have potentially devastating effects on the hardrock mining industry.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE PROVISION

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today, I voted for an amendment to the Budget Act which would improve access to health insurance for uninsured children in our country by providing an additional \$8 billion to the \$16 billion already contained in this bill for children's health care. This \$24 billion in new Federal funding will allow us to expand Medicaid coverage for very low-income children and will put affordable health care insurance within the reach of every family.

I am deeply concerned about the approximately 10 million children in our country who are currently lacking health insurance coverage. It is distressing that such a large number of our children lack access to primary and preventative care. I find it even more disconcerting that recent reports indicate that most of these children reside in families with one or more working parents.

Providing access to health care for uninsured children has been a priority for me since coming to the Senate. During the 103d Congress, I offered legislation which attempted to address this problem and provide access to health care for many of our Nation's uninsured children. This issue has remained a high priority for me in the 105th Congress and I am pleased that we were able to pass this amendment today.

This amendment is financed by a 20-cent-a-pack increase in the cigarette tax, which will raise enough revenues to provide the additional \$8 billion for children's health insurance coverage. Although I have traditionally opposed new taxes, I believe that this proposal is necessary to help working parents purchase affordable health care coverage for their children.

I wholeheartedly believe that every child deserves a healthy beginning in life. There should not be any children in our country who cannot count on access to quality health care when they need it. I believe that this bipartisan children's health insurance proposal will address this problem in a fiscally responsible manner and allow us to

provide coverage to our Nation's most vulnerable population.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of the tax cut bill that forms the heart of the second reconciliation bill.

I want to take this opportunity to commend the chairman of the Finance Committee, Senator ROTH and the ranking member, Senator MOYNIHAN, for their efforts in ensuring that the Finance Committee's bill was reported with strong bipartisan support. I hope the spirit of bipartisanship that permeated the committee's work will extend to our debate on the Senate floor.

Mr. President, during this past week, we considered the first budget reconciliation bill which was designed to slow the growth of Federal spending and to stop the hemorrhaging of the Medicare Program. And we successfully achieved both goals while at the same time making a commitment to boost funding by \$16 billion to enable more children in America to obtain health insurance.

The tax bill we are considering today builds on that achievement by earmarking \$8 billion from increased tobacco taxes for expanded children's health insurance. With this unprecedented \$24 billion commitment of funds for children's health insurance, I believe the Senate has made an investment in the health of the children of America that should alleviate the anxieties and fears of millions of parents about paying for the health care of their children.

What is even more remarkable about the reconciliation bills we are considering this week is that at the end of the process, we will have set this Government on course to finally achieve a balanced budget. While I believe the tax cuts contained in this bill provide much needed financial relief for the vast majority of working Americans, I believe our greatest achievement is balancing the budget.

What that means is that when this agreement is fully implemented in 5 years, the Federal Government will no longer have to borrow to keep this Government operating. Most importantly, the balanced budget will give us the opportunity to finally begin paying down our enormous \$5-plus trillion national debt.

Mr. President, on Monday, the world's financial markets were reminded of the enormity of the American Government's debt and the impact that debt has on the global marketplace. When Japanese Prime Minister Hashimoto suggested that he was tempted to sell off portions of Japan's American debt portfolio to stabilize the yen/dollar exchange rate, markets plummeted throughout the world. On Wall Street, we saw the Dow Jones average drop 192 points, the second largest point decline in exchange history.

Although markets recovered after Japan's Finance Minister dismissed the idea that Japan would dump its Treasury securities, the lesson is unmistakable. The security of our economy can